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[REDACTED]
Copy 2 of 7
21 February 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with William Harris

1. On Thursday, 20 February, [REDACTED] and I met with Bill Harris at his request for a three-hour discussion concerning NSA activities and relationships, functions of the Service Cryptologic Agencies (SCA), SIGINT support to military commands, and various related matters covered in the draft intelligence structure report for the Murphy Commission.

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2. Bill opened the conversation with the assertion that the SCA headquarters should be abolished and their responsibilities turned over to NSA with a manpower savings of [REDACTED] spaces. In response to this we had a wide ranging discussion of SCA functions related to NSA activities as well as Service activities, the structure of the SCA's, various Service philosophies regarding SIGINT and direct support, NSA philosophy regarding direct service and direct support, the need for intelligence resources organic to commands, and various aspects of programming and budgeting for national as well as force support resources. I believe that Bill was in a learning mode and that he was finding several of these problems explained to him for the first time. I am not certain that his views were altered as a result of the discussion, but I do believe they were somewhat modified. For example, he seemed to fall off the idea of total abolition of SCA's in favor of restructuring them under the Service intelligence chiefs in order that service-peculiar, electronic warfare and direct support functions which they perform could be continued as a part of the total Service intelligence structure. We admitted to the feasibility of such a re-structure.

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3. His impressions of direct support functions in peacetime and the readiness of such resources for wartime employment was obviously superficial and probably resulted from prior discussions with people less knowledgeable in this field. He seemed to be seeking rationale for a tidy national structure without regard for "tactical" support requirements, which he seemed to place in the "nice to have" category.

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4. We discussed several other specific points in the Commission's draft report for purposes of correcting factual errors and wrong impressions. He appeared receptive to all these comments. We did not discuss nor did he raise the general matter of security classification of the report.

5. He acknowledged that the latest draft of the report is a "poor" job which he hopes to see corrected and improved somewhat. Even when this is done, he believes it will be no more than a "mediocre" report, but the Commission appears to be satisfied with that. They hope to close out the intelligence structure report at an early date in order to finish up other reports before their charter ends on 1 July. Generally, I sensed that Bill is somewhat discouraged by the results, but his temporary poor health may have contributed to this.

6. [] and I found the exchange stimulating and interesting. Harris has some good ideas, is eager to debate his position, and is willing to listen to explanation when he lacks understanding.

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INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF

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18 February 1975

NOTE FOR: Mr. Latimer
Office of the Secretary of Defense

Tom:

The attached draft was provided to me with a query about proper classification by a member of the Murphy Commission. As you will see on reading, the substantive issues are rather significant and largely of concern to the Department of Defense. However, if this report is seriously considered by the Commission, we do have some views concerning certain elements of it. I understand this paper is not in open circulation and "is the first pop out of the can" and "many changes will be made by the Commission". Nevertheless, Bill Colby wants these drafts to be known to you and Secretary Schlesinger. He has also asked that copies be sent to Al Hall and Lew Allen, and I have done so, mindful however that the primary focal point on Murphy Commission matters in DOD is you.

We would appreciate hearing how you propose to deal with the subject and will be as helpful as we can on this end.



Associate Deputy to the DCI
for the Intelligence Community

Attachment

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